

The Microdata web pages provide comprehensive information about microdata produced by the ABS. The left navigator includes links to Available microdata, Microdata prices and How to apply for microdata. Click on the links below to find out more about the modes of access for microdata.

TableBuilder

TableBuilder is an online tool for creating tables and graphs using very detailed ABS microdata. Clients can build, customise, save and export their own tables and graphs. See How to apply for microdata in the left navigator to apply for TableBuilder.

CURF

Confidentialised Unit Record Files (CURFs) are files of responses to ABS surveys containing detailed data while also protecting the confidentiality of individuals. Basic CURFs are available on CD-ROM and Expanded CURFs are accessed via the RADL.

RADL

Remote Access Data Laboratory (RADL) is a secure online data query service for analysing CURF microdata.

ABSDL

ABS Data Laboratory (ABSDL) is the on-site data analysis solution for high-end data users who want to extract full value from ABS microdata. This service is available from all ABS sites around Australia.

MiCRO

Register, apply for CURFs and manage your approved CURF microdata access in MiCRO.

This page last updated 17 March 2016

Datasets have been grouped into data series below. [TableBuilder](#) datasets and Confidentialised Unit Record Files ([CURFs](#)) in the Remote Access Data Laboratory ([RADL](#)) are accessed via a subscription to a data series. Basic CURFs on CD-ROM are purchased per individual dataset. Microdata files in the [DataLab](#) are paid per session. For further information about prices for accessing microdata services and products, see [Microdata prices](#).

To apply for microdata products, see [How to apply for microdata](#).

UPCOMING MICRODATA

| Title and Reference Period | Format | Expected |
|--|---|-------------------------------|
| Business Characteristics, 2008-09 to 2012-13 | Expanded CURF | July 2016 |
| Business Characteristics, 2009-10 to 2013-14 | Expanded CURF | July 2016 |
| National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Survey, 2014-15 | Expanded CURF | Mid 2016 |
| National Health Survey, 2011-12 | Basic CURF | Mid 2016 |
| National Health Survey, 2014-15 | Basic CURF | Mid 2016 |
| Australian Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Survey, Nutrition and Physical Activity, 2012-13 | Basic CURF | Late 2016 |
| Characteristics of Employment, 2015 | TableBuilder | Late 2016 |
| Census of Population and Housing, 2016 | Various TableBuilder and microdata products | From mid 2017 |

AVAILABLE MICRODATA

[A](#) [B](#) [C](#) [D](#) [E](#) [F](#) [G](#) [H](#) [I](#) [J](#) [K](#) [L](#) [M](#) [N](#) [O](#) [P](#) [Q](#) [R](#) [S](#) [T](#) [U](#) [V](#) [W](#) [X](#) [Y](#) [Z](#)

A

Australian Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health

| | AVAILABLE IN DATASETS | AVAILABLE IN DATA SERIES | AVAILABLE IN DATA SERIES |
|---|-----------------------|-------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Australian Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Survey, Core Content - Risk Factors and Selected Health Conditions, 2012-13 | | Expanded CURF | TableBuilder |
| Australian Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Survey, Detailed Conditions and Other Health Data, 2012-13 | | Expanded CURF | TableBuilder |
| Australian Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Survey, Nutrition and Physical Activity, 2012-13 | | Expanded CURF | TableBuilder |
| National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Survey, 2004-05 | | Expanded CURF | |
| National Health Indigenous, 2001 | | Expanded CURF | |

Australian Census and Migrants

| | | | |
|---|--|-------------------------|------------------------------|
| Australian Census and Migrants Integrated Dataset, 2011 | | | TableBuilder |
| Australian Census Longitudinal Data | | | |
| Australian Census Longitudinal Dataset, 2006-2011 | | DataLab | TableBuilder |

B

Barriers and Incentives to Labour Force Participation and Retirement and Retirement Intentions

| | | | |
|---|--|--|------------------------------|
| Barriers and Incentives to Labour Force Participation and Retirement and Retirement Intentions, 2010-11 | | | TableBuilder |
|---|--|--|------------------------------|

Business

| | | | |
|--|----------------------------|-------------------------------|--|
| Business Longitudinal Database, 2006-07 to 2010-11 | | Expanded CURF | |
| Business Longitudinal Database, 2004-05 to 2009-10 | | Expanded CURF | |
| Innovation in Australian Business, 2003 | | Expanded CURF | |
| Business Longitudinal Survey, 1994-95 to 1997-98 | Basic CURF | | |

C

Census of Population and Housing

| | | | |
|--|----------------------------|-------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Census of Population and Housing, 2011 | Basic CURF | Expanded CURF | TableBuilder |
| Census of Population and Housing, 2006 | Basic CURF | Expanded CURF | TableBuilder |
| Census of Population and Housing, 2001 | Basic CURF | Expanded CURF | |
| Census of Population and Housing, 1996 | Basic CURF | | |
| Census of Population and Housing, 1991 | Basic CURF | | |
| Census of Population and Housing, 1986 | Basic CURF | | |
| Census of Population and Housing, 1981 | Basic CURF | | |

Childhood Education and Care

| | | | |
|--|----------------------------|-------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Childhood Education and Care, Jun 2014 | | | TableBuilder |
| Childhood Education and Care, Jun 2011 | | Expanded CURF | TableBuilder |
| Childhood Education and Care, Jun 2008 | | Expanded CURF | |
| Child Care, Jun 2005 | | Expanded CURF | |
| Child Care, Jun 2002 | | Expanded CURF | |
| Child Care, Jun 1999 | Basic CURF | Expanded CURF | |
| Child Care, Mar 1996 | Basic CURF* | | |
| Child Care, Jun 1993 | Basic CURF* | | |
| Child Care Arrangements, 1984 | Basic CURF* | | Back to top |

Community Engagement with Nature Conservation

| | | | |
|--|--|--|------------------------------|
| Community Engagement with Nature Conservation, 2011-12 | | | TableBuilder |
|--|--|--|------------------------------|

Crime and Safety

| | | | |
|------------------------|--|-------------------------------|--|
| Crime and Safety, 2005 | | Expanded CURF | |
| Crime and Safety, 2002 | | Expanded CURF | |

Crime Victimisation

| | | | |
|--|--|-------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Crime Victimisation, 2012-13 | | | TableBuilder |
| Crime Victimisation, 2011-12 | | | TableBuilder |
| Crime Victimisation, 2010-11 | | | TableBuilder |
| Crime Victimisation, 2009-10 | | Expanded CURF | |
| Multipurpose Household Survey, 2008-09 | | Expanded CURF | |

Cultural Activities

| | | | |
|--|--|--|------------------------------|
| Attendance at Selected Cultural Venues and Events, 2013-14 | | | TableBuilder |
| Participation in Selected Cultural Activities, 2013-14 | | | TableBuilder |
| Participation in Selected Cultural Activities, 2010-11 | | | TableBuilder |

D

Disability, Ageing and Carers

| | | | |
|-------------------------------------|----------------------------|--|------------------------------|
| Disability, Ageing and Carers, 2012 | Basic CURF | | TableBuilder |
| Disability, Ageing and Carers, 2009 | Basic CURF | | TableBuilder |
| Disability, Ageing and Carers, 2003 | Basic CURF | | TableBuilder |
| Disability, Ageing and Carers, 1998 | Basic CURF | | |
| Disability, Ageing and Carers, 1993 | Basic CURF | | |

Domiciliary Services

| | | | |
|-------------------------------------|-------------|--|--|
| Domiciliary Services Victoria, 1986 | Basic CURF* | | |
|-------------------------------------|-------------|--|--|

E

Education and Training

| | | | |
|---|----------------------------|-------------------------------|--|
| Education and Training, 2009 | Basic CURF | Expanded CURF | |
| Education and Training, 2005 | Basic CURF | Expanded CURF | |
| Education Training and Information Technology, 2001 | Basic CURF | | |
| Education and Training Experience, 1997 | Basic CURF | | |
| Education and Training Experience, 1993 | Basic CURF | | |
| Education and Training Experience, 1989 | Basic CURF* | | |

Education and Work

| | | | |
|------------------------------|--|--|------------------------------|
| Education and Work, May 2015 | | | TableBuilder |
|------------------------------|--|--|------------------------------|

| | | | |
|---|----------------------------|-------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Education and Work, May 2014 | | | TableBuilder |
| Education and Work, May 2013 | | | TableBuilder |
| Education and Work, May 2012 | | | TableBuilder |
| Education and Work, May 2011 | Basic CURF | | TableBuilder |
| Education and Work, May 2009 | Basic CURF | | |
| Education and Work, May 2007 | Basic CURF | | |
| Education and Work, May 2005 | Basic CURF | | |
| Education and Work, May 2003 | Basic CURF | | |
| Education and Work, May 2001 | Basic CURF | | Back to top |
| Employee Earnings and Hours | | | |
| Employee Earnings and Hours, May 2014 | | Expanded CURF | |
| Employee Earnings and Hours, May 2012 | | Expanded CURF | |
| Employee Earnings and Hours, May 2010 | | Expanded CURF | |
| Employee Earnings and Hours, May 2006 | | Expanded CURF | |
| Employee Earnings and Jobs | | | |
| Employee Earnings and Jobs, 2011-12 | | DataLab | |
| Employment and Unemployment Patterns | | | |
| Australians' Employment and Unemployment Patterns, 1994-97 | Basic CURF* | Expanded CURF | |
| Employment Arrangements, Retirement and Superannuation | | | |
| Employment Arrangements, Retirement and Superannuation, April to July 2007 | | Expanded CURF | |
| Employment Arrangements and Superannuation, 2000 | | Expanded CURF | |
| F | | | |
| Family Characteristics | | | |
| Family Characteristics, 2012-13 | | | TableBuilder |
| Family Characteristics, 2009-10 | | Expanded CURF | |
| Family Characteristics and Transitions, 2006-07 | | Expanded CURF | |
| Family Characteristics, 2003 | | Expanded CURF | |
| Families in Australia, March to May 1992 | Basic CURF | | |
| Fraud | | | |
| Personal Fraud, 2007-08 | | Expanded CURF | |
| Multipurpose Household Survey, 2007-08 | | Expanded CURF | |
| G | | | |
| General Social Data | | | |
| General Social Survey, 2014 | | Expanded CURF | TableBuilder |
| General Social Survey, 2010 | Basic CURF | Expanded CURF | |
| General Social Survey, 2006 | Basic CURF | Expanded CURF | |
| General Social Survey, 2002 | Basic CURF | Expanded CURF | |
| H | | | |
| Household Energy Consumption | | | |
| Household Energy Consumption, 2012 | Basic CURF | Expanded CURF | |
| Household Use of Information Technology | | | |
| Household Use of Information Technology, 2010-11 | | | TableBuilder |
| Housing | | | |
| Australian Housing Survey, 1999 | Basic CURF | | |
| Australian Housing Survey, 1994 | Basic CURF | | Back to top |
| I | | | |
| Income, Housing, Wealth and Expenditure | | | |
| Household Expenditure Survey and Survey of Income and Housing, 2009-10 including Fiscal Incidence Study | Basic CURF | Expanded CURF | |
| Household Expenditure Survey and Survey of Income and Housing, 2003-04 including Fiscal Incidence Study | Basic CURF | Expanded CURF | |
| Household Expenditure, 1998-99 including Fiscal Incidence Study | Basic CURF | | |

| | | |
|--|----------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Household Expenditure, 1993-94 | Basic CURF* | |
| Household Expenditure Survey, 1988-89 | Basic CURF | |
| Household Expenditure, 1984 | Basic CURF | |
| Household Expenditure, 1975-76 | Basic CURF | |
| Income and Housing, 2013-14 | Basic CURF | Expanded CURF |
| Income and Housing, 2011-12 | Basic CURF | Expanded CURF |
| Income and Housing, 2007-08 | Basic CURF | Expanded CURF |
| Income and Housing, 2005-06 | Basic CURF | Expanded CURF |
| Income and Housing, 2002-03 | Basic CURF | Expanded CURF |
| Income and Housing, 2000-01 | Basic CURF* | Expanded CURF |
| Income and Housing, 1997-98 | Basic CURF | |
| Income and Housing, 1996-97 | Basic CURF | |
| Income and Housing, 1995-96 | Basic CURF | |
| Income and Housing, 1994-95 | Basic CURF | |
| Income and Housing, 1981-82 | Basic CURF | |
| Income and Housing Costs, 1999-2000 | Basic CURF | |
| Income and Housing Costs and Amenities, 1990 | Basic CURF | |
| Income and Housing Costs and Amenities, 1986 | Basic CURF | |

L

Labour Force and Employee Earnings Benefits and Trade Union Membership

| | | |
|---|----------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Labour Force Survey and Employee Earnings Benefits and Trade Union Membership, Aug 2010 | Basic CURF | Expanded CURF |
| Labour Force Survey and Employee Earnings Benefits and Trade Union Membership, Aug 2008 | Basic CURF | Expanded CURF |
| Labour Force Survey and Employee Earnings Benefits and Trade Union Membership, Aug 2006 | Basic CURF | Expanded CURF |
| Labour Force Survey and Employee Earnings Benefits and Trade Union Membership, Aug 2004 | Basic CURF | |

Labour Force and Forms of Employment

| | | |
|--|----------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Labour Force Survey and Forms of Employment Survey, Nov 2008 | Basic CURF | Expanded CURF |
| Forms of Employment, Aug 1998 | Basic CURF | |

Labour Force and Labour Mobility

| | | |
|---|----------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Labour Force Survey and Labour Mobility, Feb 2012 | Basic CURF | Expanded CURF |
| Labour Force Survey and Labour Mobility, Feb 2010 | Basic CURF | Expanded CURF |
| Labour Force Survey and Labour Mobility, Feb 2008 | Basic CURF | Expanded CURF |
| Labour Force Survey and Labour Mobility, Feb 2006 | Basic CURF | |
| Labour Mobility, 1994 | Basic CURF | |
| Labour Mobility, 1991 | Basic CURF | |
| Labour Mobility, 1984 | Basic CURF | Back to top |

Longitudinal Labour Force

| | | |
|------------------------------------|--|-------------------------------|
| Longitudinal Labour Force, 2008-10 | | Expanded CURF |
|------------------------------------|--|-------------------------------|

M

Mental Health and Wellbeing

| | | |
|---|----------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Mental Health and Wellbeing, 2007 | Basic CURF | Expanded CURF |
| Mental Health and Wellbeing of Adults, 1997 | Basic CURF | |

Migrants

| | | |
|--|-------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Characteristics of Recent Migrants, Nov 2013 | | TableBuilder |
| Characteristics of Recent Migrants, Nov 2010 | Expanded CURF | TableBuilder |
| Labour Force Status and Other Characteristics of Recent Migrants, Nov 2007 | Expanded CURF | |

Motor Vehicles

| | | |
|--------------------------------|--|------------------------------|
| Census of Motor Vehicles, 2015 | | TableBuilder |
| Census of Motor Vehicles, 2014 | | TableBuilder |
| Census of Motor Vehicles, 2013 | | TableBuilder |
| Road Freight Movements, 2014 | | TableBuilder |

Multipurpose Household Data

| | | |
|---|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Multipurpose Household Survey, 2008-09 | Expanded CURF | |
| - Crime Victimisation | | |
| - Barriers and Incentives to Labour Force Participation | | |
| - Retirement and Retirement Intentions | | |
| - Household Use of Information Technology | | |
| Multipurpose Household Survey, 2007-08 | Expanded CURF | |
| - Environmental Views and Behaviour | | |
| - Household Use of Information Technology | | |
| - Personal Fraud | | |
| Multipurpose Household Survey, 2006-07 | Expanded CURF | |
| - Adult Learning | | |
| - Barriers and Incentives to Labour Force Participation | | |
| - Retirement and Retirement Intentions | | |
| - Household Use of Information Technology | | |
| - Family Characteristics and Transitions | | |
| Multipurpose Household Survey, 2005-06 | Expanded CURF | |
| - Household Use of Information Technology | | |
| - Participation in Sports and Physical Recreation | | |
| - Attendance at Selected Cultural and Leisure Venues and Events | | |
| - Sports Attendance | | |
| - Work-Related Injuries | | |
| Multipurpose Household Survey, 2004-05 | Expanded CURF | Back to top |
| - Household Use of Information Technology | | |
| - Barriers and Incentives to Labour Force Participation | | |
| - Retirement and Retirement Intentions | | |

N

National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Data

| | | |
|---|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Survey, 2014-15 | | TableBuilder |
| National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Survey, 2008 | Expanded CURF | |
| National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Survey, 2002 | Expanded CURF | |
| National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Survey, 1994 | Basic CURF | Expanded CURF |

National Health Survey

| | | |
|---|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| National Health Survey, 2014-15 | | TableBuilder |
| Australian Health Survey, National Health Survey, 2011-12 | Expanded CURF | TableBuilder |
| Australian Health Survey, Core Content - Risk Factors and Selected Health Conditions, 2011-12 | Expanded CURF | TableBuilder |
| National Health Survey, 2007-08 | Basic CURF | Expanded CURF |
| National Health Survey, 2004-05 | Basic CURF | Expanded CURF |
| National Health Survey, 2001 | Basic CURF | Expanded CURF |
| National Health Survey, 1995 | Basic CURF | |
| National Health Survey, 1989-90 | Basic CURF | |
| National Health Survey, 1983 | Basic CURF* | |
| National Health Survey, 1977-78 | Basic CURF* | |

Nutrition and Physical Activity

| | | | |
|---|----------------------------|-------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Australian Health Survey, Nutrition and Physical Activity, 2011-12 | Basic CURF | Expanded CURF | TableBuilder |
| Australian Health Survey, Core Content - Risk Factors and Selected Health Conditions, 2011-12 | | Expanded CURF | TableBuilder |
| National Nutrition Survey, 1995 | Basic CURF | | |

P

Patient Experiences

| | | |
|---|-------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Patient Experiences in Australia, 2011-12 | | TableBuilder |
| Patient Experiences in Australia, July 2009 to Dec 2009 | Expanded CURF | |

Pregnancy and Employment Transitions

| | |
|--|-------------------------------|
| Pregnancy and Employment Transitions, Nov 2011 | Expanded CURF |
| Pregnancy and Employment Transitions, Nov 2005 | Expanded CURF |

Preschool Education

| | | |
|---------------------------|-------------------------|------------------------------|
| Preschool Education, 2015 | DataLab | TableBuilder |
| Preschool Education, 2014 | | TableBuilder |
| Preschool Education, 2013 | | TableBuilder |

Programme for the International Assessment of Adult Competencies

| | | |
|---|----------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Programme for the International Assessment of Adult Competencies, 2011-12 | Basic CURF | Expanded CURF |
| Adult Literacy and Life Skills, 2006 | Basic CURF | Expanded CURF |
| Aspects of Literacy, 1996 | Basic CURF | |

Q

Qualifications and Work

| | | |
|-------------------------------|--|------------------------------|
| Qualifications and Work, 2015 | | TableBuilder |
| Learning and Work, 2010-11 | | TableBuilder |

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R

Rental

| | | |
|----------------------------|----------------------------|--|
| Rental Investors, Jun 1997 | Basic CURF* | |
| Rental Investors, Jun 1993 | Basic CURF* | |
| Rental Tenants, Apr 1994 | Basic CURF | |

S

Safety

| | | |
|------------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Personal Safety, 2012 | | Expanded CURF |
| Personal Safety Survey, 2005 | | Expanded CURF |
| Women's Safety, 1996 | Basic CURF | |

Sport and Physical Recreation

| | | |
|---|-------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Participation in Sport and Physical Recreation, 2013-14 | | TableBuilder |
| Participation in Sport and Physical Recreation, 2011-12 | Expanded CURF | TableBuilder |
| Participation in Sport and Physical Recreation, 2009-10 | Expanded CURF | |
| Multipurpose Household Survey, 2005-06 | Expanded CURF | |

T

Time Use

| | | |
|----------------|----------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Time Use, 2006 | Basic CURF | Expanded CURF |
| Time Use, 1997 | Basic CURF | |
| Time Use, 1992 | Basic CURF | |

V

Voluntary Work

| | | |
|----------------------|-------------|--|
| Voluntary Work, 2000 | Basic CURF* | |
|----------------------|-------------|--|

Vocational Education and Training

| | | |
|---|-------------------------|--|
| Outcomes from Vocational Education and Training in Schools, 2006-2011 | DataLab | |
|---|-------------------------|--|

W

Work Related Injuries

| | | |
|--|-------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Work Related Injuries, 2013-14 | | TableBuilder |
| Work Related Injuries, 2009-10 | Expanded CURF | |
| Multipurpose Household Survey, 2005-06 | Expanded CURF | |

Work Related Training and Adult Learning

| | | |
|--|--|------------------------------|
| Work Related Training and Adult Learning, April 2013 | | TableBuilder |
|--|--|------------------------------|

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* Contact microdata.access@abs.gov.au for supporting documentation relating to this Basic CURF

PRIVACY

The [ABS privacy policy](#) outlines how the ABS handles any personal information that you provide to us.

This page first published 24 July 2006, last updated 24 June 2016

Microdata access is priced in accordance with [ABS pricing policy](#) and [Commonwealth Cost Recovery Guidelines](#).

Microdata services subscription

Microdata subscriptions are provided by grouping relevant datasets into data series. By subscribing to microdata, you will receive all available datasets within a data series. When new datasets are released to data series you have subscribed to, all of your organisation's users can immediately have access on the day of release. New members of your organisation can also register and join at any time.

- See [How to apply for microdata](#) to register.
- For a full listing of the datasets that are included in each data series, refer to [Available microdata](#).

The subscription price charged depends on the time of year that the subscription is taken up. See the [Full year and partial year subscriptions](#) table at the end of this page.

Current quarter subscription prices

| Subscriptions for microdata services during 2016-17 | | Prices (incl. GST) |
|--|--|--------------------|
| Prices for accessing microdata subscriptions applied for between July - Sep 2016 | | |
| Subscriptions taken up between July and Sept 2016 are for the period July 2016 to June 2017 | | |
| TableBuilder | | |
| TableBuilder Pro data series for Census 2011 and 2006 data | | \$2,280 |
| TableBuilder data series for all other TableBuilder data - see Available microdata | | \$1,140 |
| Confidentialised Unit Record Files (CURFs) | | |
| Expanded CURF data series in Remote Access Data Laboratory (RADL) | | \$1,380 |

Other microdata products and services not included as part of subscriptions

| Other microdata products and services | | Prices (incl. GST) |
|---|--|---------------------------|
| TableBuilder | | |
| Census TableBuilder Basic 2011 and 2006 data | | Free |
| Census DataPacks 2011 data | | Free |
| Confidentialised Unit Record Files (CURFs) | | |
| Basic CURF on CD-ROM | | \$1,870 |
| ABS Data Laboratory first session (3.5 hours or part thereof) | | \$2,820 per first session |

| | |
|--|---|
| Additional ABS Data Laboratory sessions (3.5 hours or part thereof) | \$605 per subsequent session |
| Specialist CURF prepared to client's data requirements | Price on application - contact microdata.access@abs.gov.au |
| Information Consultancies | |
| Information Consultancies | Priced per request. Obligation free quote available |

How to apply

See [How to apply for microdata](#) to apply for TableBuilder products, Basic and Expanded CURFs and Census DataPacks.

You can add data series to your organisation's annual subscription at any time of year. Once you have applied, an invoice will be emailed to the organisation following approval by ABS of the microdata application. Staff and students of universities participating in the [ABS/Universities Australia Agreement](#) will not be invoiced for products and services covered under the agreement. This is because Universities Australia has paid for access on behalf of participating universities.

Full year and partial year subscriptions

| Subscriptions for microdata services during 2016-17 | Prices (incl. GST) | | | |
|---|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| If you apply during... | Jul-Sep | Oct-Dec | Jan-Mar | Apr-Jun |
| Subscription period | Jul 2016 - Jun 2017 | Oct 2016 - Jun 2017 | Jan 2017 - Jun 2017 | Apr 2017 - Jun 2018 |
| TableBuilder | | | | |
| TableBuilder Pro data series for Census 2011 and 2006 data | \$2,280 | \$1,710 | \$1,140 | \$2,850 |
| TableBuilder data series for all other TableBuilder data | \$1,140 | \$855 | \$570 | \$1,425 |
| Confidentialised Unit Record Files (CURFs) | | | | |
| Expanded CURF data series in Remote Access Data Laboratory (RADL) | \$1,380 | \$1,035 | \$690 | \$1,725 |

Individuals not associated with an organisation can also subscribe to microdata services. Contact microdata.access@abs.gov.au for prices and further information.

Privacy

Contact microdata.access@abs.gov.au for further information. The [ABS privacy policy](#) outlines how the ABS handles any personal information that you

provide to us.

This page last updated 24 June 2016

Applying for TableBuilder and Census DataPacks

Step 1 Register and activate user account

[Register](#) for a new user account. Use your organisation email address when registering. Contact microdata.access@abs.gov.au or phone 02 6252 7714 to check if you are already registered before registering multiple accounts. When you receive an "activate your account email" click on the link "My Account" and accept Terms and Conditions to activate your account. When activated, all registered users automatically receive access to free products: [Census TableBuilder Basic](#) [Census DataPacks](#)

Step 2 Join an organisation

Click on the email link microdata.access@abs.gov.au to request to join an organisation. Please provide your name, organisation and user ID number. The ABS joins user to your organisation. All users joined to their organisation automatically have access to all of their organisation's subscribed data series.

Step 3 Subscribe to paid products

Apply for further ABS paid products by clicking on the email link microdata.access@abs.gov.au. See also:

[Available microdata](#)

[Microdata prices](#)

[ABS/Universities Australia agreement](#)

The ABS will contact you to arrange payment. Access is expected to be granted within 2-5 working days (if paying by credit card) or 5-10 working days (for other modes of payment).

Step 4 Log in and use TableBuilder or Census DataPacks

Log into TableBuilder or Census DataPacks via [Registration Centre home](#).

Step 5 Update user contact details

Log into [Registration Centre](#) to view or update your contact details or change your password. To change your email address or organisation contact microdata.access@abs.gov.au.

Applying for Basic CURFs, Expanded CURFs and DataLab

Step 1 Register an organisation

Check if your organisation is already registered for microdata access: [Organisations approved to use CURF microdata](#).

If your organisation is already registered, go to Step 2 below.

For organisations not yet using microdata, click on the email link microdata.access@abs.gov.au to request the ABS to register your organisation.

Head of your organisation submits Responsible Officer Undertaking to the ABS. It can be found in downloads tab of [Responsible Use of ABS Microdata guide](#).

Organisation appoints staff member/s as [Contact Officer](#).

The ABS sets up organisation in MiCRO, the ABS microdata application management system.

Step 2 Register user account and join your organisation

Register as a new user in [MiCRO](#). Use your organisation email address when registering. Contact microdata.access@abs.gov.au or phone 02 6252 7714 to check if you are already registered before registering multiple accounts.

In MiCRO, request to join your organisation.

Your organisation's Contact Officer endorses you as a member of your organisation in MiCRO.

Read the [Responsible Use of ABS Microdata guide](#) to ensure you use microdata appropriately.

Step 3 Apply for microdata access

User logs into [MiCRO](#).

User applies for access to microdata. Microdata is listed under one of:

- Apply for Microdata held by your organisation (no further charges apply)
- Apply for Microdata not held by your organisation (charges may apply).

See also:

[Available microdata](#)

[Microdata prices](#)

[ABS/Universities Australia agreement](#)

The ABS approves or rejects the microdata application and advises you and your organisation's Contact Officer of the outcome.

The ABS contacts your organisation's Contact Officer to arrange payment (if required). Access is expected to be granted within 5-15 working days (if paying by credit card) or 10-20 working days (for other modes of payment).

Step 4 Accessing Microdata (CURFs and detailed microdata files)

Basic CURFs: Your organisation's Contact Officer provides you with access to basic CURFs on CD-ROM once you have been approved for access.

Expanded CURFs: Log into [RADL](#) to access expanded CURFs once you have received your log in credentials from the ABS.

DataLab: Detailed microdata and expanded CURFs. Contact microdata.access@abs.gov.au with your name, organisation and the microdata file you are interested in accessing. An ABS staff member will contact you to arrange a session.

Read the [User Manual: ABS Remote Access Data Laboratory](#) before using the RADL.

Step 5 Update user contact details

Log into [MiCRO](#) to view or update your contact details or change your password.

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This page first published 15 November 2011, last updated 30 June 2016

The ABS/Universities Australia Agreement provides a range of products and services to [participating Australian universities](#).

Under the Agreement, staff and students are not individually invoiced for their use of the charged ABS products and services that are covered under the Agreement. This is because Universities Australia has paid for access on behalf of participating universities. Staff and students of these universities may use the products and services for the purposes of research, teaching and commercial uses.

Other useful information for universities is on the [Services for universities](#) page.

For more information about Universities Australia, visit www.universitiesaustralia.edu.au or email contact@universitiesaustralia.edu.au.

PRODUCTS AND SERVICES PROVIDED BY THE AGREEMENT

TableBuilder

TableBuilder is an online tool for creating tables from ABS Census or survey data. Starting with an empty table, data variables can be selected for cross-tabulation. Tables can be saved within TableBuilder or exported in CSV, Excel or SDMX format.

Census and survey data are split into separate online tools. For more information, see TableBuilder and How to apply for microdata in the left navigator.

ABS microdata

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Luxembourg Income Study

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| CURF Title | Publications |
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| Adult Literacy and Life Skills | Published Research |
| Australian Housing | Published Research |
| Australians' Employment and Unemployment Patterns | Published Research |
| Business Longitudinal | Published Research |
| Census of Population and Housing, Sample File | Published Research |
| Childhood Education and Care | Published Research |
| Crime and Safety | No publications available |
| Disability, Ageing and Carers | Published Research |
| Education, Training and Information Technology | Published Research |
| Education and Training | Published Research |
| Education and Work | Published Research |
| Employee Earnings and Hours | Published Research |
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| Family Characteristics and Transitions | Published Research |
| Forms of Employment | Published Research |
| General Social | Published Research |
| Household Expenditure | Published Research |
| Household Expenditure and Income and Housing | Published Research |
| Income and Housing | Published Research |
| Income Distribution | Published Research |
| Innovation in Australian Business | No publications available |
| Labour Force and Employee Earnings, Benefits and Trade Union Membership | Published Research |
| Labour Force and Forms of Employment | No publications available |
| Labour Force and Labour Mobility | Published Research |
| Labour Mobility | No publications available |
| Labour Force Status and Other Characteristics of Recent Migrants | Published Research |
| Mental Health and Wellbeing | Published Research |
| Multi Purpose Household | Published Research |
| National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander (Health, Social) | Published Research |
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| National Nutrition | Published Research |
| Personal Fraud | No publications available |

| | |
|--------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Personal Safety | Published Research |
| Pregnancy and Employment Transitions | No publications available |
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Published Research - Census of Population and Housing Sample File

CURF MICRODATA RESEARCH BIBLIOGRAPHY

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Published Research - Personal Safety Survey

CURF MICRODATA RESEARCH BIBLIOGRAPHY

This page lists publications that have used the Personal Safety Survey CURF. The information has been provided by users of this CURF. ABS encourages researchers to provide citations for their published research using CURFs so that others can share the benefits of that research. This information also helps ABS understand the range of research activities undertaken using CURFs.

To submit information about your research that has used CURFs please email microdata.access@abs.gov.au.

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This page last updated 15 November 2012

Published Research - Rental Investors Survey

CURF MICRODATA RESEARCH BIBLIOGRAPHY

This page lists publications that have used the Rental Investors Survey CURFs. The information has been provided by users of these CURFs. ABS encourages researchers to provide citations for their published research using CURFs so that others can share the benefits of that research. This information also helps ABS understand the range of research activities undertaken using CURFs.

To submit information about your research that has used CURFs please email microdata.access@abs.gov.au.

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This page first published 24 July 2006, last updated 7 September 2012

Published Research - Time Use Survey

CURF MICRODATA RESEARCH BIBLIOGRAPHY

This page lists publications that have used the Time Use Survey CURFs. The information has been provided by users of these CURFs. ABS encourages researchers to provide citations for their published research using CURFs so that others can share the benefits of that research. This information also helps ABS understand the range of research activities undertaken using CURFs.

To submit information about your research that has used CURFs please email microdata.access@abs.gov.au.

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Published Research - Voluntary Work Survey

CURF MICRODATA RESEARCH BIBLIOGRAPHY

This page lists publications that have used the Voluntary Work Survey CURF. The information has been provided by users of this CURF. ABS encourages researchers to provide citations for their published research using CURFs so that others can share the benefits of that research. This information also helps ABS understand the range of research activities undertaken using CURFs.

To submit information about your research that has used CURFs please email microdata.access@abs.gov.au.

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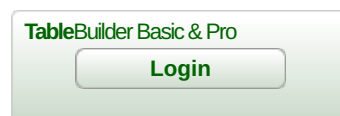
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This page first published 23 February 2007, last updated 6 September 2012

TableBuilder Advanced product, [Charges apply](#)
TableBuilder Basic (Census) Intermediate product, Free
TableBuilder Pro (Census) Advanced product, [Charges apply](#)
For Census 2006 & 2011 datasets:



**For all other
TableBuilder datasets:**



Don't have access yet?
See [How to apply for microdata](#)

TableBuilder is an online tool for creating tables and graphs from ABS microdata. Starting with an empty table, data variables can be selected for cross-tabulation. For available products and supporting documentation, see the [Available microdata](#) page.

Features include

- construct your own tables using data variables you select
- options to display counts, percentages and relative standard errors in your table
- select from categorical variables (eg state, age, sex)
- calculate means, medians and quantiles for continuous variables (eg income)
- create custom ranges from continuous variables
- create graphs using your customised tables
- save or export your tables as CSV, Excel or SDMX files.

Features available for Census 2006 and 2011 datasets

- create your own customised tables of up to 5 million cells
- create thematic maps and download them as PDF and KMZ files
- access all geographic areas, ranging from Statistical Area Level 1 to the whole of Australia
- create, save and share customised geographic areas and data items (recodes) with other users.

Help using TableBuilder

- [User Manual: TableBuilder](#) provides detailed information on how to build, customise, save and export tables and graphs.
- [Available microdata](#) page includes links to topic specific user manuals for each TableBuilder dataset.

Help using Census 2006 and 2011 datasets in TableBuilder

- [TableBuilder - user manual](#) provides detailed information about using Census data to build, customise, save and export tables and graphs
- [Census Dictionary, 2011](#)

What is a CURF?

A Confidentialised Unit Record File (CURF) is a file of responses to ABS surveys or censuses that have had specific identifying information about persons and organisations confidentialised. CURFs contain very detailed information for each individual record - a record can be a person, a business, a family, household or a job for example. CURFs are a type of microdata.

There are three different kinds of CURFs:

Basic CURFs - the least detailed CURF type. The level of detail is designed to minimise the risk of disclosure. Users can access basic CURFs in their own environment (via a CD-ROM or DVD). Under CURF production standards, individual data items in basic CURFs are likely to be reported at broad levels.

Expanded CURFs - more detailed CURFs. Expanded CURFs are accessible only in the secure RADL (Remote Access Data Laboratory) and ABSDL (Australian Bureau of Statistics Data Laboratory) environments. They contain finer levels of detail than basic CURFs. For example, where a basic CURF might report an age classification in five-yearly increments, an expanded file may include data against each year. The RADL prevents a large part of the CURF coming into contact with external databases, by restricting the amount and nature of information which can be viewed freely, and outside of a restricted environment.

Specialist CURFs - may be produced to serve specific approved statistical purposes for a particular customer, with the cost to produce the CURF fully cost recovered from the customer. Specialist CURFs may include data items and levels of detail not otherwise disseminated, or may be configured in other ways responding to particular user needs. Production of Specialist CURFs is dependent on availability of ABS resources.

For information about microdata systems, CURFs and other products, see [Access modes and levels of detail](#).

Why is microdata confidentialised?

The Census and Statistics Act includes a legislative guarantee to respondents that their confidentiality will be protected. This is fundamental to the trust the Australian public has in the ABS, and that trust is in turn fundamental to the excellent quality of ABS information. Without that trust, survey respondents may be less forthcoming or truthful in answering our questionnaires.

For more information on confidentiality, see the [Confidentiality Information Series](#) from the [National Statistical Service](#) web page.

How are microdata confidentialised?

The most basic of the techniques employed by the ABS involves removing all identifying information, such as names and addresses. Additionally, the data items that are most likely to enable identification of unit records are only released in broad categories. For example, while survey questionnaires may capture your home or business address, microdata may only be released at the State or Territory level.

For more information, see 'Avoiding inadvertent Disclosure' and 'Microdata' on our web page [How the ABS keeps your information confidential](#).

How much does microdata cost?

Microdata access is priced in accordance with ABS Pricing Policy and Commonwealth Cost Recovery Guidelines. Access to CURFs is charged per organisation not per person. Additional users of CURFs within an organisation do not incur additional charges. For information on prices and how to pay, see [Microdata prices](#).

How do I access the CURF?

CURFs are available on CD-ROM for Basic CURFs or via the [Remote Access Data Laboratory \(RADL\)](#) and the [DataLab](#) for Expanded CURFs. Not all CURFs are available in both formats. For a full list of available datasets, see [Available microdata](#).

To apply for CURFs, click on the button at the top of this page. A snapshot of the application process can be found on the [How to apply for microdata](#) page. CURF applications are completed online using the

ABS MiCRO system. Customers will be required to agree to terms and conditions of use. You should also read the [Responsible Use of ABS Microdata user guide](#) to learn more about using microdata appropriately. For further information email microdata.access@abs.gov.au. The [ABS privacy policy](#) outlines how the ABS handles any personal information that you provide to us.

This page first published 15 June 2011, last updated 30 June 2016

There are a number of different ways to access ABS microdata. Depending on the complexity of your analysis and the required level of detail for data items, you can choose a product suitable for your needs. See also:

- The [Expected and available microdata](#) page shows the access modes available for each microdata product
- Access to microdata products is charged. For information on prices and how to pay, see [Microdata prices](#).

| Access mode | TableBuilder | Basic CURF on CD-ROM | Expanded CURF in RADL | ABS Data Laboratory (Expanded or Specialist CURFs) |
|--|--|--|--|---|
| Media | Web | CD-ROM | Remote Access Data Laboratory (RADL) accessed via web | On site at ABS offices |
| Statistical and programming knowledge required | Medium | Medium | High | High |
| Data level of detail | Most detailed | Less detailed | More detailed | More detailed |
| Output data | Aggregate data in tables Tables exported in Excel, CSV or SDMX Maps exported in PDF or KMZ (Census TableBuilder only) | Unit record data on your desktop Any export format can be used. Aggregate data can be shared and published | Unit record data within RADL Tables and other aggregate analysis can be exported in TXT | Unit record data within ABSDL Aggregate output manually cleared after session |
| Benefits | Customise own tables and graphs Output automatically confidentialised Tables saved and exported in CSV, Excel, SDMX, formats Maps exported in PDF or KMZ (Census TableBuilder only) | Work on own computer Use statistical packages and versions installed on own computer | More detailed data analysis possible SAS, Stata and SPSS software provided within system Most output returned to client automatically | Complex data analysis possible without code restrictions SAS, Stata and SPSS software provided within system Additional software may be installed (additional fee applicable) |
| Restrictions | Charged product Users agree to Terms & Conditions of use Unit records remain within ABS IT environment Restrictions apply to the nature of queries Internet access required | Charged product Users bound by legal undertaking | Charged product Users bound by legal undertaking Unit records remain within ABS IT environment Restrictions apply to the nature of queries, and to the nature and size of outputs Internet access required | Charged product Users bound by legal undertaking Unit records remain within ABS IT environment All output is manually cleared Only available on ABS premises |
| How to apply for datasets | Register and apply in the Registration Centre | Register and apply in MiCRO | Register and apply in MiCRO | Contact microdata.access@abs.gov.au |

The [ABS privacy policy](#) outlines how the ABS handles any personal information that you provide to us.

This page last updated 3 December 2014

What is the RADL?

The RADL is a secure online data query service that approved clients access via the ABS website. Users access RADL to submit queries in SAS, SPSS or Stata analytical languages against expanded CURFs that are kept within the ABS environment. The results of the queries are automatically checked then made available to the users. The benefit of the CURFs being kept within the ABS environment means that the ABS is able to release more detailed CURFs in the RADL than are available on CD-ROM. While RADL provides remote access to microdata, users cannot directly access unit records.

The RADL was developed and released by the ABS in 2003, to enable the release of the more detailed microdata (Expanded CURFs) in an environment where access and use are controlled and monitored by the ABS. The RADL includes a range of automated processes that monitor data queries and withhold requested results where it is judged that the output is at risk of enabling the identification of an individual and/or organisation. The RADL also limits the number of unit records that can be seen at one time by a user. System protections in the RADL provide additional protection to the already confidentialised data released in the form of an expanded CURF. Auditing of a sample of usage is conducted on an ongoing basis.

For further information about the type of restrictions put in place by the ABS, see the Rules and Restrictions for Use chapter of the [User Manual: ABS Remote Access Data Laboratory \(RADL\)](#).

Requirements of RADL access and assumed knowledge

Remote Access Data Laboratory (RADL) users must:

- have been approved by ABS to use the CURF they wish to access in the RADL
- have familiarised themselves with the CURF documentation, including the Technical Manual and data item list relating to the CURF
- have read and understand the contents of the [User Manual: ABS Remote Access Data Laboratory \(RADL\)](#)
- be able to write programs in one of the analytical languages in RADL (SAS9.1, SPSS11.5 and Stata10). Note that the ABS does not provide a code advisory service so familiarity with SAS, SPSS or Stata is important
- know how to use an Internet browser
- be able to use a zip program (WinZip or equivalent programs).

Which CURFs are in the RADL?

All Expanded CURFs are available in the RADL. The [Expected and available Microdata](#) shows which CURFs are available in Basic and Expanded formats. The page also provides a links to the Technical and Information Papers for each CURF.

Getting started with the RADL

Information is available in the [Getting Started with the RADL](#) chapter of the [User Manual: ABS Remote Access Data Laboratory \(RADL\)](#).

The ABS assumes users are experienced in SAS, SPSS or Stata for code creation and does not provide advice on coding problems. Log files can be used to determine problems in obtaining output. Further information is available in the [RADL Help](#) section of the RADL. If you encounter any problems accessing or using the RADL, email the [RADL Administrator](#). The [ABS privacy policy](#) outlines how the ABS handles any personal information that you provide to us.

Related links

[MiCRO](#) online microdata application system
[About CURF microdata](#)
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The ABS Data Laboratory (ABSDL) is the data analysis solution for high-end data users who want to extract full value from ABS microdata. ABSDL provides an interactive environment, enabling the analysis of basic, expanded or specialist (customised) Confidentialised Unit Record Files (CURFs). ABSDL provides a more responsive and interactive environment in which to analyse CURFs than that offered by the Remote Access Data Laboratory (RADL).

Comparison of ABSDL and the RADL

| | ABSDL | RADL |
|-------------------------------|--|---|
| Location | On site in all ABS Offices. | At your own desktop, secure remote access via the ABS website. |
| Content | Basic and expanded CURFs, or a specialist CURF customised to client's analysis requirements. | Basic and expanded CURFs. |
| Analytical packages available | SAS9.3, SASEG, SPSS20 and Stata13. Other analytical packages may be able to be provided if requested. | SAS9.1, SPSS11.5 and Stata10. |
| Functionality | Interactive. No automated protections of data within the ABSDL. In the ABSDL you can open and view the entire file, and undertake cross tabulations and other forms of analysis without automated restrictions. All outputs are vetted by ABS staff before release to clients to ensure confidentiality of respondents is protected. No internet access during sessions. | Batch mode system. A range of automated protections of the data ensure confidentiality of respondents. Some commands restricted or forbidden and you cannot view the entire file. |
| Availability | Sessions must be booked in advance if using basic or expanded CURFs. Specialist CURFs may take several months to produce and is dependent on availability of ABS resources. | Generally available 24 hours per day, seven days per week. |
| Cost | Access sessions are fully cost recovered. See Microdata prices . Specialist CURFs or other client specific requirements are fully cost recovered. See below for further details. | See Microdata prices . |

Pricing

The ABSDL service is provided on a fully cost recovered basis, with a one-off set up cost, and a per session cost. The costs includes preparation of the desktop PC, maintenance of the client's access to a CURF, as well as vetting of all output produced during the ABSDL session. Sessions are 3.5 hours or part thereof.

Loading of different analytical packages may incur additional costs.

Development of a Specialist CURF for use in the ABSDL is also cost recovered. As these are developed on a case-by-case basis the cost for Specialist CURFs may be considerable, depending on the client's data requirements.

Clients in universities participating in the ABS/Universities Australia Agreement are entitled to a specified ABSDL service - for which there is no charge to the individual user. Information about this is provided on the [ABS/Universities Australia Agreement](#) web page.

Access

Access is provided to visiting CURF users in a secure location within ABS premises. The ABSDL allows interactive (real time) access to Expanded RADL files. There are no limitations on what unit record or summary information a user can view within an ABSDL, and users are allowed to produce graphical outputs. Users are supervised at all times and must not bring mobile phones, cameras, USB keys, laptops, palm pilots or similar transmission or storage devices into the secure location. All outputs produced by users in ABSDL are manually cleared for release after the session.

More information

For further information email microdata.access@abs.gov.au. The [ABS privacy policy](#) outlines how the ABS handles any personal information that you provide to us.

This page last updated 16 January 2015

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This page first published 24 July 2006, last updated 27 November 2015

CURF FAQs

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What are the limited licence provisions and what copyright information do I need to know?

How do I cite the CURFs I have used in my research?

Is there an Annual Renewal process for CURFs?

Tips for using CURFs

How should I use survey weights in my model?

How do I use Replicate Weights in STATA?

This page first published 24 July 2006, last updated 20 April 2012

Frequently Asked Questions - About CURFs - How is CURF data 'confidentialised'?

Confidentialised Unit Record Files (CURFs) are files from which all identifiers have been removed. Identifiers may include details such as names and addresses. In addition, it is generally necessary for the ABS to alter the records to prevent the identification of survey participants who have a rare mix of responses. All CURFs are thoroughly checked to ensure data has been confidentialised prior to their release.

For more information, see 'Avoiding Inadvertent Disclosure' and 'Microdata' on the ABS web page [How the ABS keeps your information confidential](#) and the National Statistical Service Confidentiality Information Sheets. These sheets explain and provide advice on a range of issues around confidentialising data.

This page first published 27 April 2007, last updated 20 April 2012

Frequently Asked Questions - About CURFs - For what type of research can a CURF be used?

CURFs are used to undertake data manipulations requiring individual unit record data reflecting the diversity within a population. Some typical applications include production of papers, journal articles, books, PhD theses, microsimulation, modelling and conducting detailed analyses.

Data contained in a CURF is also used for producing detailed tabulations requiring data in a disaggregated form.

CURFs are an invaluable source of information for 'high-end' researchers and statisticians investigating a wide range of social or labour related topics. Our web page [Published Research Using CURF Microdata](#) provides many examples of what is possible.

Each ABS CURF has associated with it a technical manual or user guide which includes information on its microdata content, technical details and conditions of use.

Use of microdata is subject to a range of restrictions to ensure the confidentiality of survey respondents. See the [User Manual: Responsible Use of ABS CURFs](#) for clear instruction on these restrictions.

This page first published 27 April 2007, last updated 24 February 2012

Frequently Asked Questions - About CURFs - Does the ABS guarantee that CURF data and systems are free from errors?

The ABS does not warrant that the CD-ROM or RADL Service or the information sourced from the Service is free from errors. The ABS will not be in any way liable for any loss, damage or injury suffered by You, or any other person consequent upon the use of the Service or the information sourced from the Service.

This page first published 27 April 2007, last updated 19 August 2009

Frequently Asked Questions - About CURFs - What skills are required to use CURFs?

CURF data on CD-ROM and in Remote Access Data Laboratory (RADL) is available in SAS, Stata and SPSS formats and can be loaded to various spreadsheets. If clients do not have knowledge of these applications, they are advised to seek guidance and expertise within their organisation prior to using the CURF data. Other software packages will be evaluated by the ABS for inclusion if there is sufficient user demand.

The individual data items have fixed positions within each record of the file. If there is more than one unit type on the file, the file will be organised hierarchically.

An extensive documentation file is provided for each CURF and includes a list of data items with their start positions and lengths, code values and category labels. The documentation also provides weighted and unweighted frequencies of each code value.

This page first published 27 April 2007, last updated 24 March 2011

Frequently Asked Questions - About CURFs - How long will I have access to a CURF?

ABS requires that both an individual and their organisation be approved to access each CURF.

Individuals are approved to use CURFs until completion of the Statistical Purpose for which access was granted. Expanded CURFs are subject to an annual renewal process, for further information on this process please see 'Annual Renewal of CURF Access'. After twelve months, ABS will ask if the Expanded CURF is still required for the original statistical purpose. If the CURF is still required, but the purpose of the research changes, a new Statistical Purpose will need to be submitted to the ABS.

Please email microdata.access@abs.gov.au with your new Statistical Purpose if it has changed.

Organisations have access to CURFs in perpetuity - unless that approval is explicitly withdrawn by the ABS (for example, as the result of a breach of ABS terms and conditions of CURF access). This means that access to each CURF is purchased only once by each organisation, regardless of the number of individual users within the organisation approved to use it.

This page first published 27 April 2007, last updated 24 March 2011

Annual Renewal of CURF Access

Each year ABS requires individuals to renew their access to Expanded CURFs. ABS also requires annual renewal of the CURF Undertaking from each organisation. Basic CURFs are not subject to an annual renewal process.

Both the renewal of Expanded CURFs and the renewal of the CURF Undertaking is a condition of CURF use that has been agreed by each organisation's Responsible Officer. These and the other conditions of use of CURFs are outlined in the CURF Undertaking.

Failure to complete annual renewal may result in the withdrawal of access to CURFs for individual users and/or the organisation.

It is the responsibility of all individual users to renew their access on the annual anniversary of their approval to access Expanded CURFs. Individual users will be asked to confirm that they still require use of the CURFs and if so, whether the statistical purpose for use of the CURF has changed.

Annual renewal time is a good opportunity for CURF users to provide ABS with citations for their published research that has included use of CURFs. This helps ABS understand the range of research activities undertaken using CURFs. ABS publishes these citations on its Published Research Using CURF Microdata web pages so that others can share the benefits of the research.

Related links:

[Responsible Officer CURF Undertaking](#)
[Guide to citing ABS sources](#)

This page last updated 20 April 2012

The annual renewal process is currently under review, therefore the contents of this page may change in the future.

Frequently Asked Questions - Applying for CURFs - Do I need to apply to access a CURF that my organisation already has?

Yes. Each person who wishes to use a CURF must be individually approved by ABS to use it - even if the organisation already holds the CURF. To apply for access, see [How to apply for Microdata](#).

Provision of CURFs to those not personally approved by ABS is a breach of the legal Undertaking signed by your organisation's Responsible Officer. Where such breaches have occurred, the ABS applies any of a range of [Penalties for breaching the CURF Undertaking](#).

This page first published 7 April 2008, last updated 27 April 2012

CURF Undertaking

To enable access to CURFs, each organisation's Responsible Officer must submit a CURF Undertaking to the ABS. The CURF Undertaking is required by Clause 7 of the Statistics Determination 1983 under the Census and Statistics Act 1905. This states that, prior to CURF release to an organisation, a Responsible Officer must undertake to ensure that the organisation will abide by the conditions of use of CURFs.

The CURF Undertaking covers all members of the organisation and must be reviewed annually by the Responsible Officer.

Send the original signed Responsible Officer Undertaking to:

Assistant Director
Customised and Microdata Delivery Section
Australian Bureau of Statistics
Locked Bag 10
Belconnen, Australian Capital Territory, AUSTRALIA 2616



Responsible Officer Undertaking
UC7.pdf

Related Links

[Who can qualify as a Responsible Officer?](#)
[CURF User Tool Kit](#)
[Contact Officer Tool Kit](#)
[Responsible Officer Tool Kit](#)

This page first published 4 December 2007, last updated 4 September 2014

Penalties for Breaching the CURF Undertaking

Subsection 19 (3) of the Census and Statistics Act 1905 provides that a person who fails to comply with the conditions outlined in the Confidentialised Unit Record File (CURF) Undertaking is guilty of an indictable offence, punishable on conviction by a fine of 120 penalty units (\$13,200) or imprisonment for two years, or both.

Individual CURF users are not required to sign an Undertaking. Rather, they are bound by the Undertaking signed by their organisation's Responsible Officer.

Additionally, under the ABS/Universities Australia Agreement CURFs are provided for research, teaching and permitted commercial uses. Other uses are in breach of that Agreement.

If at any time, you are unsure about your organisation's compliance with the CURF Undertaking or with the terms and conditions of the ABS/Universities Agreement, please contact microdata.access@abs.gov.au.

Related links:

User Manual: Responsible Use of ABS CURFs
[Applying for CURF Microdata](#)

This page last updated 23 February 2012

Frequently Asked Questions - Applying for CURFs - Consultants and third party organisations

What is a consultant?

A consultant is a person who is undertaking research for another organisation (known by ABS as the third party organisation). Some consultants are university academics doing a research project for a government agency or other organisation. Other consultants are employed by professional firms undertaking research for government agencies or other organisations.

What is a third party organisation?

An organisation which has hired a consultant is the third party organisation. ABS is the first party organisation involved in CURF access and use. An approved CURF user's organisation is the second party organisation.

Can consultants use CURFs?

Yes, but only if the consultant and their own organisation (the second party organisation) are approved by the ABS to use the CURF.

The CURF application process for consultants is the same as for any other individual, except that the applicant must tell the ABS they are doing research for another organisation, and what outputs they will share with that organisation. ABS needs this information to ensure all those who need to access CURFs gain ABS approval.

Does the third party organisation need to be approved to use the CURF?

If people in the third party organisation will see or share CURF microdata with the consultant then each of those people, and their organisation, must be approved by ABS to access the CURF. For example, a collaborative project where both the consultant and the third party organisation are analysing the microdata would require both parties to be approved to access the CURF.

If people in the third party organisation will not see or share CURF microdata then they do not need to be approved to access the CURF. For example, if the consultant provides aggregated data to the third party, or provides a report with conclusions drawn from analysis of the CURF, then ABS does not require the third party organisation to be approved to access the CURF.

See also [About CURF Microdata](#)

This page first published 20 September 2007, last updated 24 June 2011

Frequently Asked Questions - Applying for CURFs - Who can qualify as a Responsible Officer?

ABS legislation requires that the Responsible Officer for an organisation must submit an Undertaking before CURF access can be granted by ABS.

The Responsible Officer is that person legally accountable for use of CURFs by their organisation. The Responsible Officer must be the CEO or equivalent for the organisation.

Who can be a Responsible Officer:

- **for universities:** a Vice-Chancellor, Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Pro Vice-Chancellor or University Registrar
- **for government departments:** Statutory Head, Secretary of Department, Head of Agency or equivalent, as agreed with the ABS
- **for private sector organisations:** a person who has the same legal responsibility for the actions of the entity as a Departmental Secretary does for a government department. This will usually be someone with the status of CEO, Company Secretary or Managing Director.

If your organisation's Responsible Officer is no longer current, you must complete a new CURF Undertaking and send the original to the ABS.

Related links

[CURF Undertaking](#)

[CURF Responsible Officer Tool Kit](#)

[Organisations approved to use CURF Microdata](#)

[User Manual: Responsible Use of ABS CURFs](#)

This page first published 27 April 2007, last updated 13 October 2014

The following organisations have been approved by the ABS to use [CURF Microdata](#). To apply for CURF access, register in [MiCRO](#), the ABS online CURF application and management system and join your organisation.

If your organisation is not registered, or if it is registered but not listed below, please contact the ABS on microdata.access@abs.gov.au or (02) 6252 7714. The ABS requires an [Undertaking by a Responsible Officer of an Organisation](#) form to be completed by the appropriate member of your organisation. This form specifies a [Responsible Officer](#) and two [Contact Officers](#).

| Organisation | |
|---|---|
| ACT Chief Minister and Treasury and Economic Development Directorate | NSW Department of Family and Community Services |
| ACT Health Directorate | NSW Department of Planning and Environment |
| Australian Bureau of Statistics | NSW Ministry of Health |
| Australian Catholic University | NSW Treasury |
| Australian Energy Market Commission | NT Department of Sport Recreation and Racing |
| Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies (AIATSIS) | Nutrition Research Australia |
| Australian Institute of Criminology | Parenting Research Centre |
| Australian Institute of Family Studies | Parliamentary Budget Office |
| Australian Institute of Health and Welfare | Pictureworks Group Pty Ltd |
| Australian National University | PricewaterhouseCoopers |
| Australian Securities and Investment Commission | Productivity Commission |
| Australian Sports Commission | Qld Department of Communities, Child Safety and Disability Services |
| Baker IDI Heart and Diabetes Institute | Qld Department of Education and Training |
| Bond University | Qld Office of the Public Advocate |
| Boston Consulting Group | Queensland Health |
| Bureau of Communications Research | Queensland Treasury and Trade |
| Chus | Queensland University of Technology |
| CSIRO | RDA Research |
| Central Queensland University | ReachOut |
| Charles Darwin University | Reserve Bank of Australia |
| Charles Sturt University | Rice Warner Actuaries |
| Commonwealth Grants Commission | RMIT University |
| Cumpston Sarjeant | SA Department for Communities and Social Inclusion |
| Curtin University | SA Department for Health and Ageing |
| Data Analysis Australia Pty Ltd | SA Department of State Development |
| Deakin University | Safe Work Australia |
| Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu | SGS Economics & Planning Pty Ltd |
| Department of Education and Training | South Australian Centre for Economic Studies |
| Department of Employment | Southern Cross University |
| Department of the Environment | Spectrum Analysis Australia Pty Ltd |
| Department of Finance | Swinburne University of Technology |
| Department of Health | Tas Department of Health and Human Services |
| Department of Human Services | Tas Department of Premier and Cabinet |
| Department of Immigration and Border Protection | Tas Department of Treasury and Finance |
| Department of Industry, Innovation and Science | The Australia Institute |
| Department of Infrastructure and Regional Development | Tourism Research Australia |
| Department of Parliamentary Services | Treasury, The |

| | |
|---|---|
| Department of Social Services | Turning Point Alcohol and Drug Centre Incorporated |
| Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet | Universities Australia |
| Edith Cowan University | University of Adelaide |
| Ernst &Young Australia | University of Canberra |
| Essential Services Commission of SA | University of Melbourne |
| Fair Work Commission | University of New England |
| Federation University Australia | University of New South Wales |
| Finity Consulting Pty Ltd | University of Newcastle |
| Flinders University | University of Notre Dame |
| Food Standards Australia New Zealand (FSANZ) | University of Queensland |
| Geoscience Australia | University of South Australia |
| Grattan Institute | University of Southern Queensland |
| Griffith University | University of Sydney |
| Industry Super Australia | University of Tasmania |
| Insurance Council of Australia | University of Technology Sydney |
| James Cook University | University of the Sunshine Coast |
| L.E.K. Consulting | University of Western Australia |
| La Trobe University | University of Western Sydney |
| Macquarie University | University of Wollongong |
| Melbourne City Research | Vic Department of Economic Development, Jobs, Transport and Resources |
| Monash University | Vic Department of Education and Training |
| Murdoch University | Vic Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning |
| National Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation (NACCHO) | Vic Department of Health and Human Services |
| National Centre for Vocational Education Research (NCVER) | Vic Department of Premier and Cabinet |
| National Disability Insurance Agency | Vic Department of Treasury and Finance |
| National Disability Services | Victoria University |
| National Institute of Economic and Industry Research (NIEIR) | Victorian Health Promotion Foundation (VicHealth) |
| National Respite Association | WA Department of Health |
| Nestle Australia Ltd | WA Department of Education Services |
| Nielsen Television Audience Measurement | WA Department of Local Government and Communities |
| NSW Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research | WA Department of Planning |
| NSW Commission for Children and Young People | WA Disability Services Commission |
| NSW Department of Education and Communities | Xyris Software Australia Pty Ltd |

PRIVACY

The [ABS Privacy Policy](#) outlines how the ABS handles any personal information that you provide to us.

This page last updated 17 February 2016

Frequently Asked Questions - Who can access CURFs? - Can an individual apply for an ABS CURF?

Yes. An individual who is not associated with an organisation can apply for access to an ABS CURF.

ABS grants access to CURFs in accordance with requirements of Clause 7 of the *Statistics Determination 1983* under the *Census and Statistics Act 1905*. This does not require that a person be associated with an organisation, though in practice nearly all CURF users are members of an organisation.

The requirements of CURF access are shown in the CURF Undertaking.

To apply for access to ABS CURFs please visit the [How to Apply for Microdata](#) page.

This page first published 20 September 2007, last updated 15 November 2011

Frequently Asked Questions - Applying for CURFs - Can I use CURFs in more than one organisation?

Can I use CURFs in more than one organisation?

Yes, users may belong to multiple organisations. This may be on a permanent or temporary (i.e. when completing a consultancy for another organisation) basis.

Important tip - when you belong to multiple organisations and you wish to apply for microdata you need to ensure your default setting for '**Current Organisation**' in MiCRO is set to the appropriate one. To change your default organisation, click on the trading name and press '**Set as your Current Organisation**' before applying for microdata.

Please remember, upon leaving an organisation you need to deactivate your CURF access by pressing the '**Leave organisation**' button.

This page first published 27 April 2007, last updated 1 September 2011

The ABS will consider releasing CURF data to overseas applicants on a case by case basis.

Successful overseas applications will usually fulfil one of two criteria:

1. they are affiliated with an Australian university or government department, or their country's National Statistical Office (such as the US Census Bureau, Statistics New Zealand, Statistics Canada etc).
2. the study is demonstrably of use to Australia. Some examples of work meeting this criteria might include: producing international comparisons in an area of topical interest; an overseas organisation undertaking policy relevant work on behalf of Australia; methodological work that leads to improved data collection practices and methods in Australia; and research likely to result in Australia reviewing policy.

The ABS cannot guarantee that a CURF application from an overseas applicant will be approved. Release of CURFs to any organisation, Australian or otherwise, is always at the discretion of the Australian Statistician.

A list of National Statistical Offices can be accessed at www.census.gov/population/international/links/stat_int.html

This page first published 20 September 2007, last updated 29 May 2015

Frequently Asked Questions - Applying for CURFs - What is meant by 'Statistical Purpose' on the application forms?

Clause 7 of the Statistics Determination 1983 allows the Australian Statistician to disclose microdata, in this case a CURF, in a manner not likely to enable the identification of the person or organisation to which the record relates and for statistical purposes only. The Statistics Determination requires that CURF information will be used only for statistical purposes.

Put simply, it is a legal requirement that applicants for CURF access supply a statistical purpose for their use of a CURF.

What is meant by statistical purpose?

The statement of statistical purpose need not be lengthy but should show that there is a clear objective to the analysis and demonstrate that access to the CURF is essential to be able to undertake that analysis. Statements such as 'academic research' or 'policy research' without further detail are not in themselves adequate descriptions of statistical purpose, and will not be approved by the ABS.

You must not match, reweight, link, merge, augment or any similar references unit files. Identifying individual records to produce very fine tabulations is also not permitted.

Examples of suitable statistical purposes include:

- estimation of population characteristics to provide indicators of financial literacy of Australian households
- statistical modelling of predictors and correlates of employment and work performance among those with carer responsibilities compared to persons without these responsibilities
- use of data as input to mathematical models to enable analysis of impacts of potential policy changes in the area of health insurance
- study the relationship between disability and labour market outcomes to target future employment programmes

ABS reserves the right to seek more information from applicants if it is not able to readily determine whether an application should be approved as supplied.

For further advice on statistical purpose contact microdata.access@abs.gov.au.

Related links

For what type of research can a CURF be used?

Under what conditions is an Organisation provided with access to a CURF?

Can an individual apply for an ABS CURF?

This page first published 27 April 2007, last updated 24 April 2012

Frequently Asked Questions - Applying for CURFs - Do supervisors need to fill in an Individual User Application & Undertaking form?

Yes. If in supervising a research project you will be examining unit record information from the CURF, you are required to apply and have approved a CURF access request.

This page first published 27 April 2007, last updated 19 August 2009

Frequently Asked Questions - ABS/Universities Australia CURF Agreement - Is my University part of the ABS/Universities Australia CURF Agreement?

All Australian universities currently participate in the ABS/Universities Australia Agreement, see the list of universities in [ABS/Universities Australia participating universities](#).

For more information about Universities Australia, visit www.universitiesaustralia.edu.au or email contact@universitiesaustralia.edu.au.

New Zealand universities may also access Australian CURFs under the ABS and Stats New Zealand reciprocal CURF access arrangements.

This page first published 27 April 2007, last updated 17 April 2013

CURF: Frequently Asked Questions - ABS/Universities Australia Agreement - ABS/SNZ reciprocal CURF access arrangements

A Memorandum of Understanding between the ABS and Statistics New Zealand (SNZ) allows access to ABS Basic and Expanded and SNZ Basic CURFs to researchers in universities participating in the ABS/Universities Australia Agreement and the SNZ/CONZUL agreement. The SNZ Statistics for universities page provides more information about the New Zealand agreement.

Applying for access

An Australian university researcher seeking access to a New Zealand CURF must complete, submit and have approved a SNZ CURF Researcher Understanding. This Understanding will contain a statement to the effect that Australian researchers wishing to access New Zealand Basic CURFs will be bound by the access requirements of the Statistics Act as enacted in New Zealand (1975). See the SNZ Access to microdata web page for further information about applying for and using SNZ CURFs. New Zealand CURFs are available to Australian users on CD-ROM only.

A New Zealand university researcher seeking access to an Australian CURF should complete the standard ABS CURF application process on the ABS website. See the How to Apply for Microdata page. Access to Australian CURFs for New Zealand applicants is available in the Remote Access Data Laboratory (RADL) only.

Terms and conditions

Breaching the terms and conditions of CURF access in either Australia or New Zealand may result in the imposition of penalties in both countries. Such penalties may include withdrawal of individual or organisational access to all SNZ and ABS CURFs.

This page first published 24 July 2006, last updated 15 November 2011

Frequently Asked Questions - ABS/Universities Australia Agreement - Can I use CURFs obtained under the Agreement for an externally funded research project?

The ABS/Universities Australia Agreement for 2009-11 includes use for research, teaching and permitted commercial uses. For more information see ABS/Universities Australia CURF Agreement..

If you are in any doubt as to whether your intended use of a CURF is authorised under the Agreement you must contact microdata.access@abs.gov.au or call (02) 6252 7714 before putting the CURF to that particular use.

This page first published 27 April 2007, last updated 24 March 2011

Frequently Asked Questions. ABS/Universities Australia Agreement. Does the Agreement give me access to Luxembourg Income Study?

Yes. Access to the [Luxembourg Income Study](#) (LIS) is available as part of the ABS/Universities Australia Agreement.

LIS is a depository for anonymised household survey microdata provided by international agencies. The range of household income data surveys represented in LIS includes ABS Income and Housing Costs microdata. Microdata from all international collections included in LIS have been adjusted to provide income, demographic, labour market and expenditure information on three different levels: household, person and child. Almost all the microdata files in LIS cover multiple reference periods.

Access to LIS for researchers in universities is managed by LIS itself. For more information please consult the LIS via the website link provided above.

This page first published 12 September 2007, last updated 31 March 2009

Frequently Asked Questions - ABS/Universities Australia CURF Agreement - Can I use a CURF obtained under the ABS/Universities Australia Agreement as the basis for applying for an ARC or NHMRC grant?

Yes. As long as your university is a party to the ABS/Universities Australia Agreement and the CURF will be used to support a pure research project funded by the ARC and/or the NHMRC.

This page first published 27 April 2007, last updated 12 January 2009

Frequently Asked Questions - Obligations, Liabilities and Penalties - Obligations of CURF Users

Access to ABS CURFs includes responsibilities and commitments on the part of the user and their organisation.

- Before applying for CURF access, applicants must read the User Manual: Responsible Use of ABS CURFs and adhere to the obligations it describes regarding use of CURFs. This information is also available in the CURF application system, MiCRO.
- If an individual user leaves their organisation they must inform the ABS 10 working days prior to departure.

For information on penalties resulting from a breach of obligations in the CURF Application and Undertaking form see - Penalties for Breaching the CURF Undertaking

This page last updated 24 February 2012

Frequently Asked Questions - Obligations, Liabilities and Penalties - Under what conditions is a CURF released?

CURFs are released at the discretion of the Australian Statistician after an intensive assessment process conducted by the ABS Micro-data Review Panel. CURFs may be released on CD-ROM, via the Remote Access Data Laboratory (RADL) or through the ABS Data Laboratory (ABSDL), depending on the level of detail provided in the file.

This page first published 27 April 2007, last updated 4 July 2008

Frequently Asked Questions - About CURFs - For what type of research can a CURF be used?

CURFs are used to undertake data manipulations requiring individual unit record data reflecting the diversity within a population. Some typical applications include production of papers, journal articles, books, PhD theses, microsimulation, modelling and conducting detailed analyses.

Data contained in a CURF is also used for producing detailed tabulations requiring data in a disaggregated form.

CURFs are an invaluable source of information for 'high-end' researchers and statisticians investigating a wide range of social or labour related topics. Our web page [Published Research Using CURF Microdata](#) provides many examples of what is possible.

Each ABS CURF has associated with it a technical manual or user guide which includes information on its microdata content, technical details and conditions of use.

Use of microdata is subject to a range of restrictions to ensure the confidentiality of survey respondents. See the [User Manual: Responsible Use of ABS CURFs](#) for clear instruction on these restrictions.

This page first published 27 April 2007, last updated 24 February 2012

Frequently Asked Questions - Obligations, Liabilities and Penalties - Can I share statistical output from a CURF?

Tables or other aggregated output (for example, averages, model parameters) released as 'general output' via the Remote Access Data Laboratory (RADL) or developed as output by users of CD-ROM CURFs may be disclosed or disseminated by the user.

Certain output from RADL may be labelled as 'Keep Secure'. This classification requires that the output be treated as highly confidential at all times. 'Keep Secure' output includes any printouts of unit record information, as well as analytical output that has been designated as 'Keep Secure'.

RADL 'Keep Secure' output cannot be shared between users who do not have access to the source CURF, nor with users in other organisations whether or not they do have access to the CURF. Such output may be used in further analysis, but cannot be published.

All Analytical results labelled as 'Keep Secure', whether they include unit information or not, must be stored in a secure environment. All such printouts should be kept under lock and key, and electronic output must be stored in password protected systems.

RADL 'Keep Secure' printouts must be securely destroyed (ie shredded) when no longer needed, and analytical output (whether or not it includes unit record information) held in an intranet must be deleted. Deletion must happen in such a way that recovery is not possible by unauthorised people.

This page first published 27 April 2007, last updated 4 July 2008

Frequently Asked Questions - Obligations, Liabilities and Penalties - Under what conditions is an Organisation provided with access to a CURF?

Access to a CURF is granted to an organisation at the discretion of the Australian Statistician. A precondition of organisational access is that the Australian Statistician has been provided with a legally binding Undertaking setting out the Terms and Conditions under which the access is approved.

This page first published 27 April 2007, last updated 4 July 2008

Frequently Asked Questions - Obligations, Liabilities and Penalties - How do I cite the CURFs I have used in my research?

Information or data from the Australian Bureau of Statistics must be acknowledged responsibly whenever it is used. Citing, or referencing, is important for several reasons, including acknowledging that one has used the ideas, words or data of others. Accurately citing sources used also allows others to find and use the original information.

For information on how to cite CURFs please refer to [Guide to Citing ABS Sources](#).

This page first published 27 April 2007, last updated 4 July 2008

Frequently Asked Questions - Obligations, Liabilities and Penalties - What is a RADL audit and will I be involved?

Audits of jobs submitted to RADL are conducted throughout the year by the ABS. The purpose of these audits is to identify confidentiality issues within users' code, log or output files. These issues may arise through users failing to follow, accidentally or otherwise, restrictions or rules for using RADL.

For each job that is audited, the code, log and output files are manually inspected by ABS staff. If a confidentiality issue is identified, the user in question will be notified by email. Users are required to cooperate with any ABS audit directions in respect to their code and output.

Further information on restrictions and rules for RADL use can be found in the User Manual: ABS Remote Access Data Laboratory (RADL) (cat. no. 1406.0.55.002).

It is also a requirement that individual users comply with requirements specified in the User Manual: Responsible Use of ABS CURFs (cat. no. 1406.0.55.003).

This page first published 27 April 2007, last updated 20 April 2012

Frequently Asked Questions - Obligations, Liabilities and Penalties - What is a Compliance Audit?

CURF microdata Users should be aware that their organisation's Responsible Officer has signed an Undertaking specifying that ABS officers or their nominated representatives are allowed access to all necessary documents and information for the purposes of conducting a compliance audit concerning the observance of the terms and conditions under which information is disclosed by ABS.

This audit is undertaken periodically by the ABS with a number of organisations audited on each occasion. The auditors will visit to discuss the organisation's internal arrangements for managing access to CURFs. As part of the visit the auditor will speak with CURF users about their understanding of the ABS conditions for CURF usage. The visit is also an opportunity for users to provide feedback to the ABS and to make suggestions for improvements to CURF data or associated procedures.

The audit does not generally involve checking data files or an organisation's IT systems.

This page first published 27 April 2007, last updated 19 August 2009

Frequently Asked Questions - Obligations, responsibilities and liability - Can I share CURFs with other people?

No. Access to CURFs can only be granted by the ABS and is granted on an individual basis only.

Unapproved individuals must not be given access to microdata as this is a serious breach of the CURF Undertaking signed by your organisation.

Any person who needs access to CURF microdata or to non-aggregated output produced from the CURF must apply and be approved by ABS before accessing the data. This includes members of your research project team who will see or use CURF microdata or non-aggregated output from the CURF.

Sanctions outlined in the Penalties for Breaching the CURF Undertaking will be brought against organisations and individuals found to be sharing access to CURFs and/or unit record output with unapproved people.

This page first published 21 April 2008, last updated 28 February 2011

Frequently Asked Questions - Obligations, Liabilities and Penalties - What is the ABS liability position regarding CURF microdata?

Except to the extent that liability may not be lawfully excluded, the ABS:

a) makes no warranty as to the suitability or fitness of the CURF for a particular purpose, or quality, accuracy or merchantability of the CURF;

and

b) accepts no liability arising from the use of the CURF.

This page first published 27 April 2007, last updated 4 July 2008

Frequently Asked Questions - Obligations, Liabilities and Penalties - What are the limited licence provisions to use a CURF and what copyright information do I need to know?

Intellectual Property Rights in CURFs, including copyright in the CURF, are owned by the Commonwealth of Australia represented by the ABS. Copyright notices appearing on the CURF or on information displayed or printed by the CURF must not be removed.

An organisation using CURFs is granted a non exclusive, non transferable license by the ABS that allows Authorised Users to use the CURF for statistical purposes in accordance with the Undertaking signed by the Responsible Officer of the organisation.

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This page first published 27 April 2007, last updated 20 April 2012

Frequently Asked Questions - Annual Renewal of CURFs - Do I need to renew access to CURFs?

Yes, and no! Users of Expanded CURFs must renew their access annually with the ABS. The CURF Undertaking signed by the Responsible Officer on behalf of their organisation must also be renewed annually. However from 2011 ABS has removed the requirement for annual renewal of Basic CURFs.

For information about annual renewal please see the [Annual Renewal of CURF access web page](#).

This page first published 27 April 2007, last updated 20 April 2012

Frequently Asked Questions - Tips for using CURFs - How should I use survey weights in my model?

This note on using survey weights in modelling has been provided as a response to questions that have been asked by ABS Remote Access Data Laboratory (RADL) clients regarding the use of weights in their models. It should be useful for those contemplating the use of survey weights in their models, and who would like to know how this might be accomplished.

Survey weights are most commonly used to produce estimates of aggregates, means, and quantiles for a population. The use of weights for more complex survey analysis is less clearcut. There is currently no one unified view by statisticians on if, and how, weights should be used when undertaking a modelling exercise.

The decision whether to use weights or not could have an effect on point estimates produced from the model, not only in terms of magnitude but possibly also in terms of sign and significance. Standard errors of these estimates will also differ in magnitude depending on whether weights are used. In general, use of survey weights in the model should lead to accurate point estimates. However, the standard errors of these estimates will not tend to be as accurate.

One approach that may help in partially addressing the issue of less accurate standard errors is to first normalize the weights. Normalizing of weights involves multiplying the weight of each person by a constant factor so that they add up to a desired value. For the purposes of survey analysis, it is common to normalize the weights to add up to the sample total. It is suggested that normalized weights be calculated at state level where possible due to the different sampling fractions that are used in each state.

State-level normalized weights can be calculated by multiplying the person weight of an individual within state h by the proportion of people in the state that were in the sample:

$$\tilde{w}_{i,h} = w_{i,h} \left(\frac{n_h}{N_h} \right)$$

where

$\tilde{w}_{i,h}$ is the normalized weight for unit i in state h

$w_{i,h}$ is the original person weight for unit i in state h

n_h is the sample total in state h

N_h is the population total in state h

Normalization using SAS, SPSS and Stata

Support for normalized weights in modelling varies for each of the different software packages available in the ABS RADL.

In SAS: When using the LOGISTIC or PHREG procedures, users may specify an option **/NORMALIZE** when using the **weight** statement. This will cause the weights specified by the **weight** statement to add to the total sample size. Note that this option does not necessarily produce normalized weights at state-level.

In SPSS: Minimal support for normalized weights.

In Stata: When producing some models, Stata will rescale the specified weights to add to the total sample size.

Useful references on the use of survey weights in modelling

The following references may assist your decision on whether or not to use survey weights for your particular purpose. They have been selected as an authoritative cross-section of discussion on the issue of using weights in models.

Chambers, R.L. and C.J. Skinner (eds.) (2003), **Analysis of Survey Data**, Chichester: Wiley.

DuMouchel, W.H. and G.J. Duncan, (1983) "Using Sample Survey Weights in Multiple Regression Analyses

of Stratified Samples", **Journal of the American Statistical Association**, Vol. 78, No. 383. (September), pp. 535-543.

Magee, L., Robb, A.L., and J. B. Burbidge, (1998), "On the use of sampling weights when estimating regression models with survey data", **Journal of Econometrics**, Volume 84, Issue 2 (June), Pages 251-27.1

Pfeffermann, D. (1993), "The Role of Sampling Weights When Modeling Survey Data", **International Statistical Review**, Vol. 61, No. 2. (August), pp. 317-337.

Pfeffermann, D (1996), "The Use of Sampling Weights for Survey Data Analysis", **Statistical Methods in Medical Research**, 5, pp. 239-261.

Skinner, C.J., Holt, D., and T.M.F Smith (1989), **Analysis of Complex Surveys**, Chichester: Wiley.

Winship, C., and L. Radbill (1994), "Sampling Weights and Regression Analysis." **Sociological Methods and Research** 23(2):230-257.

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Frequently Asked Questions - Tips for using CURFs - How do I use Replicate Weights in STATA?

It is not appropriate to use the bootstrap commands in RADL. To use bootstrap commands appropriately a user needs to be able to identify the primary selection units (PSU). In the case of ABS CURFs, all respondents in the same CD (Collection District) belong to the same PSU. However, grouping respondents into PSUs significantly increases the risk of a respondent being identified so the ABS cannot release this information. To enable researchers to produce accurate variance estimates, the ABS releases the replicate weights which take the sample design into consideration, as well as any other steps in the estimation process such as non-response adjustments.

For STATA users, the ABS has made available the user-supplied *svr* suite of commands to assist users in calculating standard errors using replicate weights. Users must first use *svrset* to set the key survey replication variables for use by the other *svr* commands.

The following parameters should be specified:

- Replication method is the delete-one jackknife: *svrset set meth jk1*
- Main analysis weight is usually the person weight: for example *svrset set pw FINWT* (or equivalent)
- Variables denoting the replicate weights need to be specified: for example *svrset set rw REPWT1-REPWT30* (or equivalent)
- Degrees of freedom for variance calculation are one less than the number of replicate weights: for example *svrset set dof 59* (or equivalent)

A useful summary of replicate weights is available in the STATA help documentation: http://www.ats.ucla.edu/stat/stata/Library/replicate_weights.htm

This page first published 27 November 2009, last updated 20 April 2012

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6. where applicable, adhere to all ABS directions and system constraints, including those provided in the Undertaking by the Responsible Officer of an Organisation, Undertaking by an Individual, Declaration of Compliance, User Guide: Responsible Use of ABS Microdata and User Guide: Remote Access Data Laboratory publications on the ABS website
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This page last updated 26 July 2016

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ABS Privacy Policy

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OUR PERSONAL INFORMATION HANDLING PRACTICES

We handle your personal information when performing our functions under the [Australian Bureau of Statistics Act 1975](#) (ABS Act) and the [Census and Statistics Act 1905](#) (Census and Statistics Act). For further information about the legislated functions of the ABS, please see [ABS Legislative Framework](#).

Your personal information collected by the ABS under the authority of the Census and Statistics Act is protected by additional secrecy provisions. The Census and Statistics Act secrecy provisions contain standards, rules and obligations for the collection, use and disclosure of information (which may include personal information) which operate alongside the requirements of the Privacy Act. The Census and Statistics Act prohibits the disclosure of your personal information, except in the case when it is returned to the person from whom the ABS collected the information or, in certain circumstances, where the data needs to be queried with a contact person from the business that the data is about. As a result, your personal information remains confidential to the ABS.

COLLECTION

We may collect personal information about you relating to:

- the Census of Population and Housing and surveys conducted under the Census and Statistics Act; or
- surveys conducted under the ABS Act; or
- administrative data collections; or
- other data collection activities (including statistical research); or
- your involvement in activities that support statistical coordination and dissemination; or
- you contacting the ABS; or
- your employment by or contract to the ABS.

Kinds of personal information that we collect and hold

In performing our functions, we may collect and hold the following kinds of personal information about you:

- name, address and contact details (e.g. phone number, email address);
- basic demographics (e.g. age, sex, marital status, relationship with other household members);
- personal characteristics and personal opinions (e.g. date of birth, country of birth, languages spoken, housing tenure, education qualification, employment information, income and financial information);
- business characteristics which relate to sole traders and partnerships (e.g. business name, business address, business contact details);
- personal identifiers (e.g. government related identifiers or payroll identifiers);
- employee records; and/or
- photographs, video recordings and audio recordings of you (as part of testing, and with your consent).

In performing our functions, we may also on occasion collect and hold the following kinds of information considered sensitive under the APPs:

- your racial or ethnic origin;
- your religious beliefs or affiliations;
- your membership of a trade union;

- your criminal record; and/or
- your health information (e.g. physical health, mental health, disability).

How we collect and hold personal information

We may collect personal information about you directly from you as well as indirectly from third parties.

In performing our functions, we may collect your personal information using a variety of methods including:

- paper-based and electronic forms;
- in person and over the phone;
- administrative data sources;
- recording and surveillance devices (for staff and office security);
- paper and electronic correspondence;
- [ABS](#), Australian Statistics Advisory Council ([ASAC](#)) and National Statistical Service ([NSS](#)) websites; and
- ABS' social media accounts.

We collect and store your personal information securely. Electronic and paper records containing your personal information are protected in accordance with the Australian Government Protective Security Policy Framework. We manage your personal information in accordance with the Australian Government records management regime. When no longer required, your personal information is destroyed or deleted according to the [Administrative Functions Disposal Authority](#) and our records authorities ([2001/00000540](#) and [2007/00105946](#)).

USE OR DISCLOSURE

We only use or disclose your personal information for the purposes for which it was given to us, i.e. purposes which are related to our functions as described under the ABS Act and the Census and Statistics Act.

We do not usually disclose your personal information and are unlikely to disclose your personal information to overseas recipients. The ABS will never release any information of a personal or domestic nature that has been collected under the Census and Statistics Act. Instances where the ABS may disclose your personal information include where:

- you have consented;
- you would reasonably expect, or have been told, that we usually disclose information of this kind;
- or
- the disclosure is otherwise required or authorised by law.

Purposes for which we collect, hold, use and disclose personal information

We collect, hold, use and disclose personal information for statistical and non-statistical purposes.

For statistical purposes, your personal information may be handled in relation to statistical collection activities or statistical coordination and dissemination activities.

Statistical collections include:

- the Census of Population and Housing and surveys conducted under the Census and Statistics Act;
- surveys conducted under the ABS Act;
- administrative data collections; and
- other data collection activities (including statistical research).

Statistical coordination and dissemination activities include contact with stakeholders, event participants, consultancy clients and those individuals who collaborate with us on statistical development activities.

For non-statistical purposes, your personal information may be handled in relation to you contacting the ABS (public contact) and your employment by or contract to the ABS (ABS staff).

Statistical collections

As part of its statistical collections, the ABS collects data from individuals, households and businesses, as well as from administrative sources. These collections support activities related to the compilation, production and analysis of statistics on a wide range of social, population, environmental and economic matters.

The ABS collects, compiles, analyses and disseminates nationally representative statistics on a wide range of social, environmental and economic matters. The personal information collected as part of these activities varies with the collection topic and the collection unit. Most individual and household collections include basic demographics; some collect personal characteristics and personal opinions. Most business collections include point of contact details; some include details that relate to employees, sole traders and partnerships. Various administrative collections usually include basic demographics and may include personal characteristics relating to individuals and their family.

All survey, Census and research data, including data from administrative sources, is collected by the ABS under the authority of the Census and Statistics Act, unless explicit approval for the collection is provided by the Australian Statistician. In a small number of collections, data is collected under the authority of the ABS Act. This is usually done on a contractual basis to allow the clients to access unit record survey data for the purpose of producing statistics. Any collection of data under the ABS Act is on an overtly voluntary basis.

Personal information collected under the Census and Statistics Act remains confidential and is used for statistical purposes only. For further information about the privacy of survey data, please see [Survey Participant Information](#).

Statistical coordination and dissemination

We collect personal information including name, address and contact details about our stakeholders, event participants, consultancy clients and collaborators in statistical development activities. We collect this information through direct contact with these individuals.

We use this personal information to manage:

- stakeholder contact for collaboration on national statistical activities
- participant contact for education and training activities
- client contact for statistical consultancy work
- volunteer contact for survey testing to assist in the development of surveys
- volunteer contact for testing infrastructure in the development and evaluation of the ABS website
- authentication to access online resources (e.g. group membership lists)
- notification about ABS products and services (e.g. distribution lists).

Public contact

We collect personal information including name, address and contact details as part of our usual communication and correspondence processes, including when you write to or email us, when you call us, or when you hand us your business card.

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If you prefer not to submit information via these websites, please contact us for advice on how to proceed. Survey respondents should phone one of the following numbers, depending on the state or territory in which you reside:

New South Wales and Australian Capital Territory: 1800 813 025

Victoria, South Australia and Tasmania: 1800 060 911

Queensland: 1800 636 809

Western Australia: 1800 643 777

Northern Territory: 1800 111 994.

All other enquiries should be forwarded to the National Information Referral Service on 1300 135 070.

HOW TO ACCESS PERSONAL INFORMATION WE HOLD ABOUT YOU AND SEEK ITS CORRECTION

You have the right to request access to the personal information that the ABS holds about you and to request its correction. If you are seeking access to personal information in relation to a survey, please contact the 1800 phone number you have been provided with (listed above in 'Alternatives to the ABS website').

If your request to access personal information does not relate to a survey, you may request access to or correction of the personal information that we hold about you by contacting us using the details provided below.

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We are committed to protecting your privacy. We treat any accidental or unauthorised disclosure of your personal information seriously and deal with it promptly.

If you think we may have breached your privacy rights or our privacy responsibilities, you may contact us using the details provided below.

We will acknowledge the receipt of your complaint within five business days of receiving it. In most cases, we will complete our investigation into your complaint and respond to you within 30 days. If the matter is more complex and our investigation may take longer, we will let you know when we expect to be able to provide our response.

A complaint should first be made to us and we should be given 30 days to respond. If you are not satisfied with the outcome of or our response to your complaint, you may refer your complaint to the [Office of the Australian Information Commissioner](#).

HOW TO CONTACT US

Please contact us if you have any queries about the personal information that the ABS holds about you or the way that we handle that personal information.

Our Privacy Officer will deal with your inquiries or complaints about our compliance with the Australian Privacy Principles (APPs).

The Privacy Officer can be contacted:

By email: privacy@abs.gov.au

By phone: 02 6252 7203

By post: Privacy Officer
Policy and Legislation Section
Australian Bureau of Statistics
Locked Bag 10
Belconnen ACT 2617

The Privacy Officer will respond to your inquiry or complaint promptly, if you provide your contact details.

The [ABS Privacy Policy](#) outlines how the ABS will handle any personal information that you provide to us.

AVAILABILITY OF THIS POLICY

If you wish to access this policy in an alternative format (e.g. hard copy), please contact us using the details provided above.

This page first published 29 February 2008, last updated 17 June 2016

ABS Pricing Policy

Introduction

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Revisions to the ABS Pricing Policy.

Introduction

Open access to official statistics on the economic and social condition of a country and its population is an essential element of a democracy. The ABS attaches considerable importance to easy and widespread access by all levels of governments, and the community generally, to the statistics it compiles.

Objectives

ABS Pricing Policy follows the latest government guidelines on cost recovery by information agencies, currently contained in **Commonwealth Cost Recovery Guidelines, July 2005 (Guidelines)**

(Please note that the links below will take you to documents on the Department of Finance and Deregulation website: <http://www.finance.gov.au>)

Australian Government Cost Recovery Guidelines (Financial Management Guidance No. 4)

[Australian Government Cost Recovery Guidelines PDF version](#) [462 KB]

[Australian Government Cost Recovery Guidelines RTF version](#) [3.5 MB]

and **Australian Government Competitive Neutrality Guidelines for Managers, February 2004 (CNG)**.

Australian Government Competitive Neutrality Guidelines for Managers (Financial Management Guidance No. 9)

[Competitive Neutrality Guidelines PDF version](#) [587 KB]

[Competitive Neutrality Guidelines RTF version](#) [1.9 MB]

[Competitive Neutrality Guidelines ZIP version](#) [163 KB]

Corrigendum issued on 30 April 2004 regarding the example on page 20

[Corrigendum regarding the example on page 20 PDF version](#) [50 KB]

[Corrigendum regarding the example on page 20 RTF version](#) [64 KB]

Community Service Obligations (CSO)

To meet its CSO for statistics, publications, either in HTML or PDF format, and associated publication tables, are available via self service at no charge on the ABS web site.

More detailed Census data is also available via self help at no charge from the ABS web site. Simple inquiries for ABS data are handled free of charge. These free products and services comprise the ABS **Basic Information Set**.

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Pricing Practices

Users wanting information or services that are beyond that provided by the **Basic Information Set** are required to pay relevant costs, including overheads, incurred beyond the costs of collection and production of clean unit record files from which the information is produced.

ABS Pricing Policy provides for three bases for setting prices:

- pricing based on marginal costs for the additional dissemination of the Basic Information Set;
- pricing based on incremental costs for products and services additional to the Basic Information Set; and,
- "commercial" pricing, based on competitive neutrality principles, for products and services which could compete with similar products provided by the private sector.

ABS Pricing Principles

The principles underpinning ABS Pricing Policy are set out below.

Principle 1

ABS is committed to open access to official statistics by all levels of governments, and the community generally.

Principle 2

ABS will provide free access channels to the **Basic Information Set** funded by appropriation.

Principle 3

The ABS will recover the costs of accessing the Basic Information Set via non-free access channels (e.g. print on demand) on a marginal cost basis.

Principle 4

Where cost effective to do so, the ABS will recover the costs of producing and providing information products and services that are additional to the Basic Information Set, including salaries, operating and capital costs and associated overheads, from users.

Principle 5

The ABS will recover the costs of products and services provided in addition to the Basic Information Set, on an incremental cost basis for those which only the ABS can provide (e.g. due to confidentiality considerations), and on a commercial cost basis, for those which may compete with products and services provided by other suppliers.

Principle 6

The ABS will set its pricing policy, in conformity with Government guidelines on Cost Recovery and Competitive Cost Neutrality, with a view to :

- relieving the general taxpayer of those elements of the cost of the statistical service which have a specific and identifiable value to particular users;
- enabling the demand for ABS products and services to be used as one indicator of how ABS resources should be used; and
- encouraging users to address their real needs for ABS statistical products.

Principle 7

The ABS strongly encourages secondary provision of ABS data. We will recover the cost of creation and provision of customised data dissemination and product creation from on providers of ABS information. The ABS releases most data, including customised data, under the AusGOAL open licensing framework in compliance with Australian Government's commitment to provide open access to Public Sector Information.

Principle 8

The ABS provides technical assistance to international agencies and other countries. Wherever possible it will use the applicable AusAID pricing schedule, which approximates charging on a marginal cost basis. Exceptions apply in the following situations:

- where the work is tendered in a competitive situation, the ABS will quote on a commercial cost basis;
- where international agencies have their own standard rates, the ABS may choose to apply those rates; and
- consistent with our international policy, ABS may partially recover, or waive, its costs for statistical work associated with international engagement if it is a strategically important initiative that the ABS has decided to support, and/or there are important staff development opportunities .

Principle 9

The Australian Statistician or his delegate may, where public interest issues are involved, decide to charge products and services on other bases.

Principle 10

In all cases where costs are recovered, the ABS will charge "efficient costs" i.e. the minimum costs necessary to deliver products and services that are fit for purpose.

Principle 11

ABS will use simple and cost effective pricing schedules and administrative systems.

Products and Services Included in the Basic Information Set

- Contents of the ABS web site including **Email notification service**
- Collection activities, statistical analysis and processing of surveys to final unit record file, including collection and processing of confidentialised unit record files (CURFs)
- **National Information Referral Service (NIRS)**
- **Secure lock up services**

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More information

For further information, **contact the Director, National Client Services.**

This page first published 26 May 2006, last updated 31 August 2011

Each organisation approved to use microdata has appointed a Contact Officer to manage microdata use and liaise with the ABS on microdata matters. Your organisation's microdata Contact Officer is listed in [MiCRO](#), the ABS' online CURF application system. If you are not a registered user and would like details of your organisation's Contact Officer, please contact Microdata Access Strategies.

Email: microdata.access@abs.gov.au

Phone: 02 6252 7714

Fax: 02 6252 8132

Address: Microdata Access Strategies
Australian Bureau of Statistics
Locked Bag 10
Belconnen ACT 2616

The [ABS privacy policy](#) outlines how the ABS handles any personal information that you provide to us.

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